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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: SLOVENIA NOTES U.S. CONCERNS WITH SARG, BUT NOT
OPPOSED TO ENGAGEMENT

REF: SECSTATE 78880

Classified By: Amb. Yousif B. Ghafari for reasons: 1.4 (B,D)

(C) On July 31, Emboff met with Minister Plenipotentiary Miljan Majhen at the Slovene Ministry of Foreign Affairs to urge the Government of Slovenia (GOS) to seek concrete action from the Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) and carefully consider the SARG's historical record before increasing engagement. Majhen responded that the GOS would take note of U.S. concerns with respect to increased engagement with the SARG, but Majhen also emphasized that EU policy is to find a way to engage with the SARG because there exists an unease that isolating Syria will leave it only one ally, Iran. Majhen concluded that the GOS observed some promising steps made recently by the SARG, such as President Asad's willingness to open an embassy in Lebanon.

GHAFARI